

Biography of DEP Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. spearheads the lead agency in state government for environmental management and stewardship with conviction and transparency.



To fulfill Governor Rick Scott's continued focus on protecting the natural resources of Florida while creating the best possible mechanisms for job creation in the state, Secretary Vinyard has a deep background in environmental compliance and innovation to help execute these target objectives. Secretary Vinyard's top priorities at DEP include establishing permitting efficiencies, consolidating water policies to create a more effective, consistent development and management strategy, and maintaining the state's legacy of an award-winning park system.

Secretary Vinyard is committed to providing excellent customer service across a diverse range of needs in a prompt and respectful manner. He advocates maximizing customer value while minimizing waste through the LEAN program, which creates more value for customers with fewer resources. Because of DEP's great success using the LEAN methodology to streamline department programs, he has established a LEAN effort for the Environmental Resource Permitting process, which will reduce time and increase efficiencies for customers in the application process.

Secretary Vinyard has more than twenty years of experience in environmental law and business management. In his previous role as Director of Business Operations at BAE Systems Southeast Shipyards, the world's second largest defense contractor, Secretary Vinyard was responsible for strategic planning, business development and regulatory and government affairs. He also served on a number of professional and civic associations that draw upon his expertise in environmental and complex business practices, including board service on the Jacksonville Port Authority, the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Manufactures Association of Florida.

During his decade in private practice at Smith, Hulsey and Busey, one of Florida's most well-respected law firms, Secretary Vinyard counseled clients in state and federal environmental compliance and permitting, was heavily involved in the siting of an electrical cogenerating facility and assisted in industry waste minimization efforts. He also served as a chair of the environmental and land use law section of the Jacksonville Bar Association. Secretary Vinyard received his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University.